

Regional School District 12
Board of Education
Education Meeting Minutes
Shepaug Valley School
April 17, 2017

The Education Meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, April 17, 2017, by Chairman James Hirschfield. Present were Board members: Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Gregory Cava, Rebecca Devine, Stephanie Kolnick (7:02 p.m.) Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley. Michelle Gorra was absent. Patricia Cosentino, Ed.D., Superintendent was also present.

Also present were: Cathy Colella, Principal at BFS / BS; Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Lori Ferreira, Associate Principal at SVS; Karen Fildes, Director of Technology & Communications; Kim Gallo, Principal at SVS; Emily Judd, Principal at WPS; and Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Curtis Read, Bridgewater, First Selectman - Thanked Rebecca Devine for her service on the Board representing the town of Bridgewater. Mr. Curtis read a letter he wrote dated April 7, 2017 in regard to the classroom changes at Burnham School for the 2017-18 school year. Mr. Curtis stated he had sent the letter to Barbara Henry for her review. He passed out copies to Board members.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approval of minutes: District Budget Hearing – March 27, 2017
Special Meeting – March 27, 2017
Business Meeting – March 27, 2017
Retreat – April 3, 2017

Field Trip: Trip to Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, MA for Grade 5 had been mentioned.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chairman Hirschfield wished Board member Rebecca Devine the best due to her leaving the Board of Education as a result of moving out of the District. Mr. Hirschfield thanked Ms. Devine for her time and dedication to the Board.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Correspondence: Dr. Cosentino commented on the letter she had received from Commissioner Currey in regard to supporting the AgSTEM project. Dr. Currey stated in her letter that she would be recommending to the Governor and the legislature that the Region 12 program proceed. Dr. Cosentino shared that Mrs. Gallo and Mr. Perachi had received notification from CIAC that the Co-Operative Ice Hockey Team had been awarded the Fine Sportsmanship Award. Dr. Cosentino acknowledged the team and congratulated them. Dr. Cosentino mentioned the tournament which the Debate Team had attended. Shepaug finished in second place out of seventy teams in the Yale Debate Tournament during Spring Break. Team members were: Bianca Getzel and Matthew Marchese. Dr. Cosentino remarked on how college acceptances are beginning to come in for graduating seniors. She read college acceptances thus far.

Peter Tagley left the meeting at 7:17 p.m. and returned at 7:38 p.m.

Personnel: Dr. Cosentino reported on the resignation of Vincent Cosentino, Paraprofessional at WPS effective March 23, 2017.

Field Trip: Dr. Cosentino reported on the request for a field trip to Silver Lake Conference Center, Sharon, CT on May 12-13, 2017 for Grades 6-7.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to approve the field trip to Silver Lake Conference Center, Sharon, CT on May 12-13, 2017 for Grades 6-7.

VOTE: unanimous.

Anthony Amato left the meeting at 7:20 p.m. and returned at 7:22 p.m.

Staff Roles and Responsibilities: Dr. Cosentino briefly commented on the flow chart and the roles and responsibilities descriptions for each administrator. Chairman Hirschfield noted that an email had been sent to each member with that information.

Valerie Andersen commented on the Next Generation results Mrs. DeBrito shared with her. Mrs. Andersen stated she had the great pleasure of reporting to the Town of Washington's Board of Finance, how well the Region had done and how successful our school is compared to schools in our ERG and in other comparison ERGs.

SPECIAL EDUCATION OVERVIEW

Allyson O'Hara, Director of Pupil Services, presented. Mrs. O'Hara stated that in her presentation she will address questions that have been previously asked. A PowerPoint was shown and a corresponding handout was made available. Reporting numbers used were from State reporting data dated October 1, 2016. Mrs. O'Hara explained differences in support plans and clarification was made in regard to the students in our District and out of our district who attend private schools in our region and the testing/support we are obligated to provide. Mrs. O'Hara explained the use of grant monies. Also reported on were phone conversations made by Mrs. O'Hara with the State offices regarding clarification of percentage numbers. Topics discussed were the qualifying factors for identifying student's, PPT's, IEP's, 504's, Prevalence Data, Private Schools and reporting percentages of students in the Special Education program. Open discussion took place throughout the presentation.

Greg Cava left the meeting at 7:53 p.m. and returned at 7:55 p.m.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION

Teresa DeBrito, Director of Curriculum presented. Mrs. DeBrito began her presentation with an introduction of Professional Development "behind the scenes". Coinciding with the presentation was a PowerPoint which included statements on Professional Development by staff within the Region. Mrs. DeBrito spoke on the Connecticut Vision for Professional Development, Continuous Learning, On Site and Off Site Professional Development, Learning Opportunities, Consultants who had been brought in to work with the staff and Coherence. As part of the presentation a handout had been passed to BOE members which listed workshops teachers had attended in the past 4 years. Also included in the handout

were samples of Mrs. DeBrito's newsletters, which listed professional development workshops available to teachers.

During a pause in the presentation there was a brief conversation in reference to the letter and statements made earlier in the evening by Mr. Read. Chairman Hirschfield stated that a discussion would follow later in the evening.

Videos of teacher comments were shown. Teachers spoke on their reflections of different workshops and Professional Development Workshops they had attended. Questions and answers followed. Mrs. DeBrito was thanked for her presentation and the members of the Board stated how much they appreciated the teacher videos in which teachers were able to share their reflections.

Dr. Cosentino left the meeting at 8:35 p.m. and returned at 8:38 p.m.

POLICIES

Second Reading – Policy 5141, Student Health Services. Alan Brown reviewed the policy and noted that Dr. Altorelli had been asked to review the policy as our Medical Advisor.

MOTION: made by Greg Cava, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to approve Policy 5141, Student Health Services, as a second reading.

VOTE: unanimous.

Second Reading – Policy 6154, Homework. Alan Brown reviewed the policy stating the policy had been requested to go back to the committee for review to include a reviewing by the administrators. Mr. Brown stated, that after such review, the enclosed policy has come back to the Board for approval. Discussion on the policy. Michael Sinatra and Teresa DeBrito shared input in regard to the policy and revisions made.

Stephanie Kolnick left the meeting at 9:37 p.m. and returned at 9:40 p.m.

MOTION: made by Michael Sinatra, seconded by Rebecca Devine, to approve Policy 6154, Homework, as a second reading.

Discussion followed the motion.

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Valerie Andersen, to move the question.

VOTE: **In favor:** Anthony Amato, Valerie Andersen, Alan Brown, Rebecca Devine, James Hirschfield, Stephanie Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Greg Cava.

Motion passed (10 – 1 – 0)

Vote on motion to approve Policy 6154.

VOTE: **In favor:** Anthony Amato, Alan Brown, Rebecca Devine, James Hirschfield, Stephanie

Kolnick, Jennifer Pote, Lisa Roush, Michael Sinatra, and Peter Tagley.

Opposed: Valerie Andersen and Greg Cava.

Motion passed (9 – 2 – 0)

It had been suggested that since there are policies that are almost 20 years into the review cycle, that the committee look at those policies. The thought was that even though they may not need to be revised, it would be good to review the policy and add a current review date.

Second Reading – Policy 9126, ByLaws of the Board, Treasurer. Mr. Brown reviewed the policy stating that the policy had been reviewed by the Policy Committee as a revision to the original policy. Valerie Andersen referred to item 1, “the treasurer will countersign”, and shared that this is not so but there is a review that does take place. It was decided that the policy will be returned to the Policy Committee for further review. Dr. Cosentino stated that she will also check on the procedure with Mr. Giesen.

Greg Cava left the meeting at 9:43 p.m. and returned at 9:46 p.m.

First Reading – Policy 5141.25, Students with Special Dietary Needs. Michael Sinatra reviewed the policy stating this is a new policy and it had been recommended to replace existing policy 5141.23, Students with Health Care Needs. This policy was being brought to the Board as a request by CABA. The new policy focus is on allergies whereas 5141.23 is about other health care needs, and that the committee had decided to keep both policies.

MOTION: made by Peter Tagley, seconded by Jennifer Pote, to approve Policy 5141.25, Students with Special Dietary Needs, as a first reading.

Discussion followed with concerns in regard to students with food allergies. It was noted that this policy is state mandated.

VOTE: unanimous.

ACTION ITEMS

Board of Education Self-Evaluation: Chairman Hirschfield suggested that the evaluation be scheduled after July 1 since it is possible there could be new members after the next Board elections for seats in May. There was also discussion of possibly having the evaluation take place prior to the election with current Board members. Mr. Hirschfield stated he would ask Debby Bliven to send out dates via the doodle calendar to set up an evening to have this meeting before July 1, 2017.

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Michael Sinatra, to address the letter read by Curtis Read earlier in the evening.

VOTE: unanimous.

Discussion on the Letter Dated April 7, 2017, Presented by Curtis Read, Bridgewater First Selectman. Discussion and ideas on the letter took place. Comments as to obtaining legal counsel guidance prior to setting up a meeting with Mr. Read had been made. It was suggested that Barbara Henry, First Selectman

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in Roxbury, be invited to such meeting since any change would also effect Booth Free School. Reference to information received from Attorney Brochu, dated February 23, 2017, had been noted. Mr. Hirschfield read questions that he would like to ask Atty. Brochu. Discussion and interpretation on the content of Mr. Read's letter continued. Chairman Hirschfield stated that he would contact Atty. Brochu and will copy that email to Board members. A meeting date had not been set but possibilities were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: made by Valerie Andersen, seconded by Anthony Amato, to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm.

VOTE: unanimous.

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